

Danish NIOSH Symposium on Occupational Health Risks: WOOD DUST

April 15, 2004 at
Eigtves Pakhus, Copenhagen Denmark

WOOD DUST

- **There are about 3 million workers exposed to wood dusts in EU15, and there are more to come in the 10 new Member States on May 1, 2004**
- **High exposure levels of wood dusts may be found e.g. in furniture industry and floor laying (parquet installation)**

WOOD DUST MAY HARM HEALTH

- **Epidemiological studies indicate that exposure to hard wood dusts (beech, oak) increases the risk of sinonasal cancer without understanding of the mechanisms**
- **Exposure to wood dusts is also associated with an increased risk of pulmonary inflammation**

WOOD RISK RESEARCH: CHALLENGING GOALS

- **Exposure assessment**
 - In industry sectors by wood species, exposure levels, and numbers of exposed workers in EU15
 - WOODDEX exposure database
- **Sinonasal cancer**
 - Risks and mechanisms of sinonasal cancer due to exposure to wood dusts

WOOD RISK RESEARCH: CHALLENGING GOALS

- **Inflammation**

- *in vitro* or *in vivo*; differences between wood dusts; mechanisms
- Human model for wood dust-induced inflammation

- **Risk assessment**

- **WOOD RISK database: WOODEX database + dose response effect data**
- To promote the reliability of assessment of wood dust-induced health risks

IMPLEMENTATION

- **Prevention strategies**
- **Providing information for the Commission, scientific community, decision makers, social partners, and workplaces**
- **Good practices for industries and workplaces**
- **Scientific basis for regulations**